

LEGAL NOTICE
Town of Merrimack
Public Hearing

Residents of Merrimack are hereby advised that the Town Council will hold a public hearing to authorize the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$54,990.61 received from the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and through the New Hampshire Governor's Office For Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) Grant Program, for the purchase of three (3) multi-function portable ventilator units for the Merrimack Fire Rescue Department, pursuant to RSA 31:95-b and Charter Article 8-15. The public hearing will be held on **Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 7:00 PM** in the Matthew Thornton Room located at 8 Baboosic Lake Road in Merrimack.

For Town of Merrimack Use:

Posted: April 10, 2023

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MERRIMACK FIRE RESCUE

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Fire Chief
Mark W. DiFronzo
Assistant Fire Chief
Richard N. Harris
Assistant Fire Chief
Daniel L. Newman

Memo

To: Paul Micali – Town Manager
From: Chief DiFronzo
Re: 2021 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) –
Governor’s Office For Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR)
Locality Equipment Purchase Program (LEPP)
Date: April 5, 2023

Under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), the State received a total of \$112 million in Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to distribute to New Hampshire non-metropolitan cities and towns. The Department applied for the State of New Hampshire GOFERR grant Locality Equipment Purchase Program. This program provided support of up to \$50,000 per New Hampshire locality (cities and towns) for purchasing safety and emergency equipment needed as a result of or in response to the health crisis and its negative effects. Among other things, it could include equipment needed in response to personnel shortages related to the health crisis. There was a 10 percent match required if awarded a grant.

All reimbursed costs had to be allowable expenses under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund.

Applications for this matching grant program opened October 29, 2021 and were due by June 3, 2022. The equipment had to be acquired by December 31, 2022. If an award was made, approval by the Governor and Council would be required.

The Merrimack Fire-Rescue Department applied for and was awarded the grant and purchased (3) three multi-function portable ventilator units. This put one unit on each of our ambulances. The total cost for the units was \$54,990.61.

These units allow our EMS providers to manage several medical conditions that could compromise a patient’s airway. The vent units are capable of effectively delivering correct air volume ventilations to an unconscious patient while also ensuring provider safety. Presently our EMS providers have to manually deliver these ventilations while being directly over the open mouth of a patient. Disease transmission via respiratory droplets is highly probable. Even with proper PPE usage the spread can still occur. By minimizing the time a provider needs to be directly over an open mouth it allows for the HVAC systems in our ambulances to remove those particles. Another benefit to using a ventilator system is the ability to provide consistent volumes of air for the patient’s respiratory system. Presently a provider needs to time their ventilation delivery and squeeze what they believe is the correct volume of air into the patients lungs.

This allows for large variances based upon the provider. By using a portable ventilator we remove any subjectivity and insure the patient gets the correct volume of air at the proper interval.

In July of 2022 the Department was notified that we were awarded the grant. In October of 2022 the monies were released by the State.

The equipment was purchased for \$54,990.61 and is currently in use. They have been used on a number of patients with great outcomes.

I would recommend the Town approve the acceptance of this grant award. This equipment has enhanced and improved our abilities to properly deliver ventilations while keeping our EMS providers safer from disease transmission.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Mark W. DiFronzo
Fire Chief

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